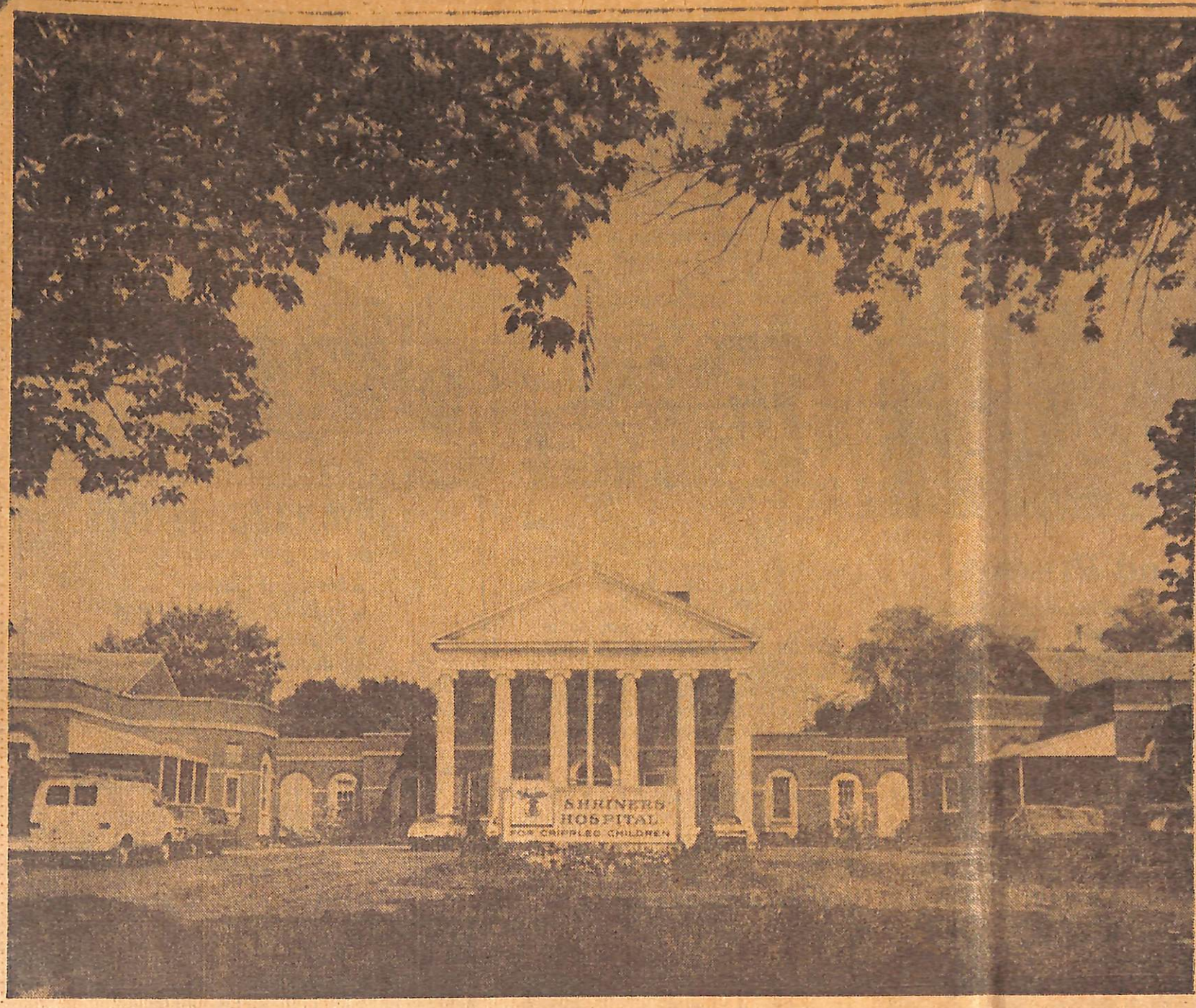

The Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children on Carew Street in Springfield has discharged more than 15,000 children during its 50 years of existence.

Shriners Hospital
50 Years of Caring for Children

By NEAL WEINBERG
Republican Staff

Several years ago, a girl who had severe paralysis and severe curvature of the spine from polio and who was totally unable to walk, was admitted to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Springfield.

After multiple surgical procedures, bracing and physiotherapy, she was seen by Dr. James D. Fisher, current chief surgeon, and Dr. Garry DeN. Hough Jr., then chief surgeon, walking slowly and with a great deal of difficulty down the corridor on her way home from the hospital.

Hough turned to Fisher and said the girl was a perfect example of the idea that "everything is relative."

"Most people would look at her and say, 'What a pity.' You and I look at her and say, 'Isn't it wonderful, she's walking."

Today, the Shriners Hospital celebrates its 50th year of helping crippled children to walk.

During the past half century, the hospital that accepts no payment from parents or third parties and no money from the government, has cured or materially helped more than 15,000 patients.

All 22 Shriners Hospitals in North America are owned and operated by the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

The 900,000 Shriners annually raise more than $30 million to operate the hospitals. The money comes from an annual assessment on the individual Shriners, from wills and bequests, from events like the North-South Shrine Football game, and from donations by non-Shriners.

The annual operating budget of the Springfield unit is more than $1 million.

Shriners Hospitals accept children of any race, color or creed who can not afford to pay and who can be materially helped by treatment.

The Springfield unit accepts patients from New England, most of New York State and from foreign countries.

To be accepted a patient must be referred by a physician and must be sponsored by a Shriner.

But if a patient comes to an out-patient clinic at the hospital and if the condition meets medical requirements, the patient is given an application.

If the patient doesn't know a Shriner, the application can be mailed in and a Shriner from Springfield will sponsor the child, Dr. Fisher said.

The hospital is situated on a 6.5 acre site on the crest of a hill on Carew

See A PLACE WHERE
Page 16

* * *

Burn Centers Spotted Across U.S.

By the 1950s, 17 of the 19 Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children had been established and the Shrine wanted to expand its services into another area.

A study was conducted which showed that the field of disaster burns, which can later lead to orthopedic problems, was being bypassed.

There was only one burn center in the country at that time.

In 1963, after several years of study and planning, the Shriners opened a seven-bed wing the John Sealy Hospital at the University of Texas, medical branch in Galveston, for the treatment of children with violent burns.

The next year, the Shrine opened a seven-bed ward in the Cincinnati General Hospital on the campus of the University of Cincinnati for similar work.

Also is 1964, a five-bed ward was opened in Massachusetts General Hospital, under the Harvard Medical School.

Two years later, a new building, the Shriners Burns Institute was opened in Galveston.

And earlier this year, the Boston Unit, Shriners Burns Institute, was cited as the first federally-recognized Burns Trauma Center in the country.

The center will work toward advance medical knowledge of burns and bring innovations into the treatment of children with severe burns.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE SHRINER'S HOSPITAL
ON THEIR 50th ANNIVERSARY
U. S. VACUUM & APPLIANCE

We Salute
The Springfield Unit of

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Shriners Will Parade At the Drop of a Fez

At the drop of a fez, hundreds of Shriners from Springfield's Melha Temple will respond to the call of a parade.

Dozens of times a year, the clowns put on their makeup, the musical units get in tune, the horsemen mount up, the motorized units rev up the engines and everyone puts on a brightly colored costume.

The parades are fun for the Shriners and fun for the parade watchers, but there's a serious side to the activities.

All of the money received by the Melha Temple Shriners from the parades, goes directly to the Springfield Shriners Hospital.

The Melha Temple is one of 17 in New England and upstate New York assigned to the Springfield hospital.

But because of the close proximity between the temple and the hospital, the two share a special relationship.

More than 50 years ago, when the national Shriner leaders were choosing a site for the New England hospital, it was the Melha Shriners who lobbied for the Springfield site.

The Melha Temple donated the land on which the hospital was built.

The chairman of the hospital board of governors and all board officers are from the Melha Temple, while other temples are represented on the board.

See PARADE Page10

In This Section

Photos by Arthur MacCannell
Stories by Neal Weinberg

CONGRATULATIONS
on your
50th Anniversary
WILLOW GLEN HOUSE
232 N. Main St., E. Longmeadow

50th ANNIVERSARY

SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN

SPRINGFIELD UNIT

Our Congratulations on
your 50 years - serving others

FREDERICK'S

BAYSTATE WEST ENFIELD SQUARE

Place Where 'Everything Is Relative'

Continued From Page 15

Street in Springfield. The land was donated by Springfield's Melha Temple.

At dedication ceremonies for the hospital, the site was named, "The Hill of Smiles."

The hospital contains 60 beds, 30 in the boys ward and 30 in the girls ward. There is currently a waiting list of more than 100 children.

Each ward is fully equipped with modern facilities including a centralized nursing station and a large television set.

The southern Colonial style brick building has two floors, the lower of which has several ramps.

There is also a nurses building, administration section, kitchen, pharmacy, schoolroom, recreation room, out-patient area, physiotherapy room, operating room, brace shop, and other medical rooms.

An enclosed porch extends the full length of both wards, allowing patients to be pushed out into the sunshine on warm days.

The hospital is beautifully landscaped and has a large playground and tennis court in the rear.

Built for about $300,000, the hospital has undergone several major improvements over the years.

The feature that strikes a visitor to the Shriners Hospital is the smiles on the faces of the children, the laughter heard coming from different parts of the hospital and a general mood of brightness and hope.

The hospital treats both orthopedic problems like curvature of the spine and congenital malformations, and neurological diseases like cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy, Fisher said.

There has been a vast change in the types of cases at the hospital over the past 50 years, he said.

When the hospital first opened, the number of orthopedic surgeons in the area was relatively small. Many of the cases handled by the Springfield unit were relativery uncomplicated ones such as clubfeet, congenital dislocation of the hips, and many cases of tuberculosis of the bone and poliomyelitis.

Chairmen, Past and Present

These four men have served as chairmen of the Board of Governors of Shrine Hospital. From the left: George M. Hendee, potentate Melha Temple in 1929, first chairman of the Board of Governors; Harry H. Caswell, potentate Melha Temple in 1923, second to serve as chairman; Donald H. Mudd, potentate Melha Temple in 1947; third to serve as chairman; and Carl B. Martin, Jr., potentate Melha Temple in 1965, present chairman.

But tuberculosis of the bone and polio have been virtually wiped out.

And uncomplicated cases of clubfoot and dislocated hip are often treated by other surgeons.

"Consequently the patients admitted at the present time consist largely of those with birth defects with a severe degree of deformity and paralysis of one type or another, in addition to extremely difficult cases of clubfoot and dislocated hip that in all probability have had surgical procedures elsewhere before being referred to our institution," Fisher said.

When the hospital accepts patients it does so on the basis of setting a goal for the patient.

Sometimes a patient is admitted for simple surgery for ease of nursing care. In other cases, if a patient can't sit, the goal is to get the patient to sit. If the patient can't walk, the goal is to get the patient to walk. It's all relative, Fisher said.

The hospital performed more than 300 operations last year, but not all patients are operated on. Many receive only physiotherapy treatments, he said.

Fisher is chief surgeon at the hospital. Dr. Leon M. Kruger and Garry DeN. Hough, III, are assistant chief surgeons.

There is a staff of seven orthopedic surgeons and a large number of consultant physicians in diverse areas and all serve on a volunteer basis.

The hospital has been recognized by the National Research Council in respect to its juvenile amputee clinic which is conducted twice a month.

About 80 children a week attend out-patient clinics scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

Once a week there is also a scoliosis clinic and a myelodysplasa or open spine clinic is scheduled once a month.

In addition, part of the staff goes to northern Maine every June and to Utica, N.Y., every October, to save families from making the long trip to Springfield.

Fisher said the hospital has been "blessed" to have a group of men and women who give time from their busy practices to help in diagnoses, clinics and treatment.

The Shriners Hospital has a special meaning for those who are associated with it.

Fisher said, "The hospital has been my life. It is the most gratifying experience any physician could ask for."

BUSY HOSPITAL

In 1974, the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Springfield admitted 420 patients, applied 1,007 casts, conducted 4,249 out-patient visits, performed 346 operations, and took 8,123 x-rays.

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THE SHRINER'S
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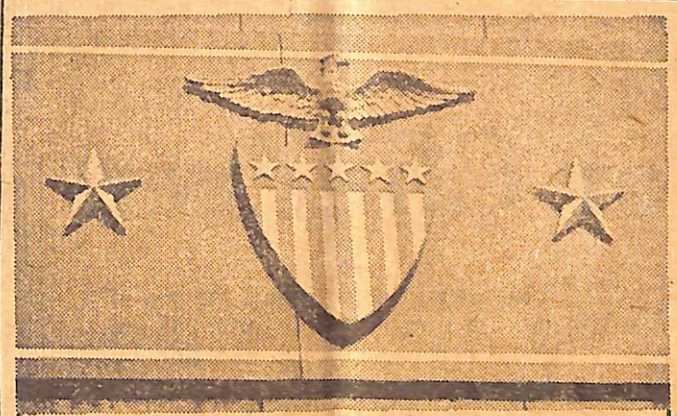
Eagle and shield, symbol of United Co-operative Bank
Proud Tradition
Congratulations, Shriners, for your 50 years of helping to treat *crippled children.* Springfield is proud of you!
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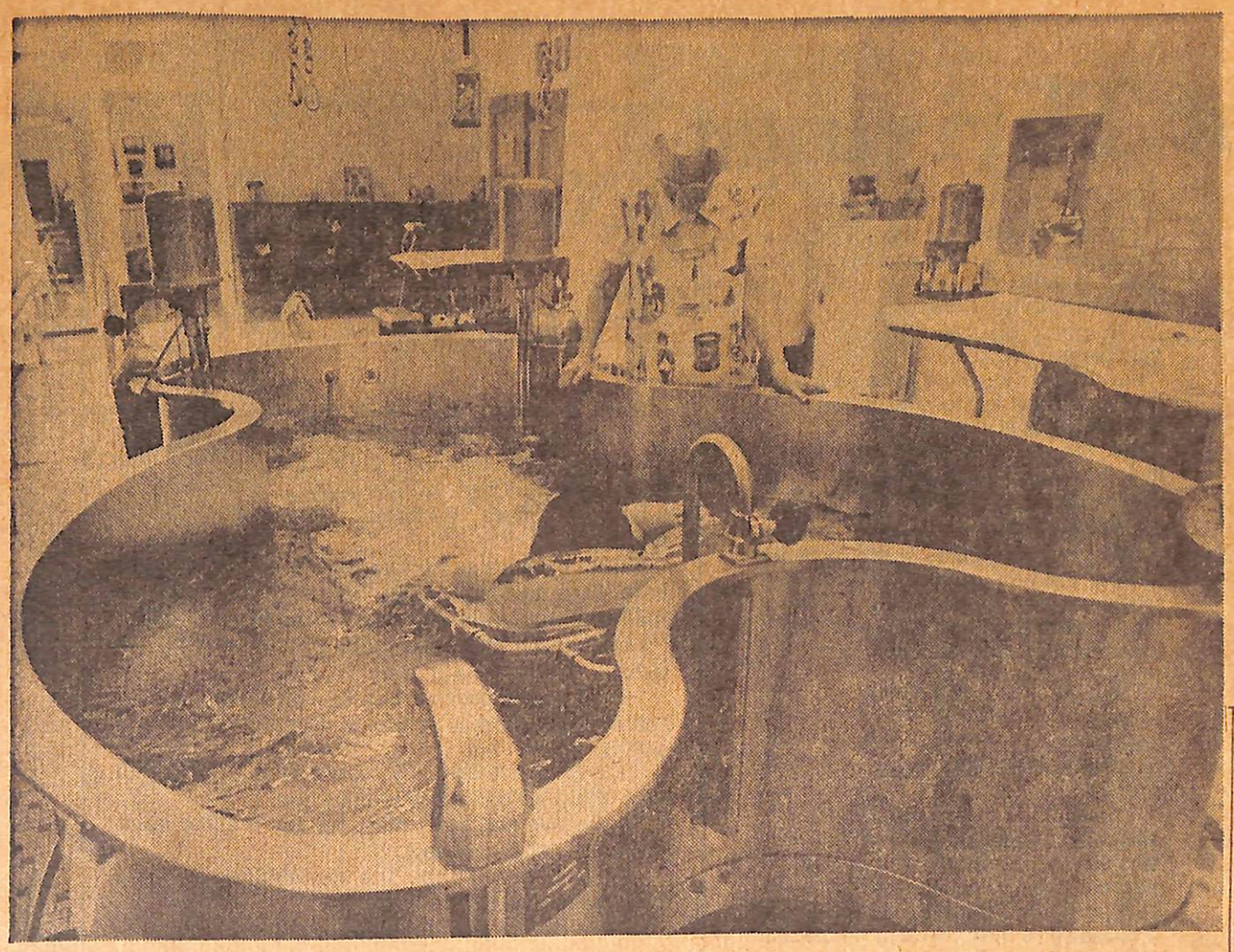


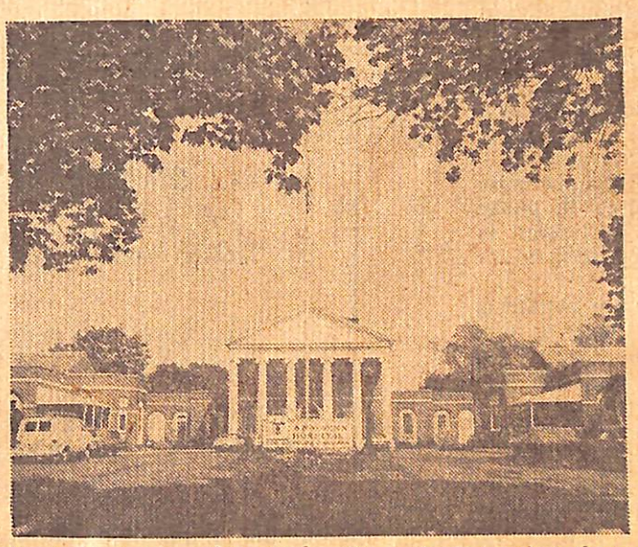
At Work in Physiotherapy Unit

Mrs. Lois White of Belchertown, an aide in the physiotherapy unit of the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, helps a patient with a session in the hospital's new stainless-steel tank which allows full immersion and is equipped with an electric lift.

. . . So Springfield Won Out

This is the story of how Springfield was chosen as the site of the New England unit of the Shriners Hospital, as told by long - time Melha Shriner and public relations director for the hospital, Norman H. Richards.

By NORMAN RICHARDS



Back in 1918 when the national officials of the Shriners of North America in Chicago, Ill., were selecting locations for their orthopedic hospitals, the state of Massachusetts was selected to take care of the five New England states and part of New York State.

It so happens that there were two Shrine Temples in Massachusetts — Aleppo Temple in Boston and Melha Temple in Springfield.

Much rivalry developed between the two temples.

Aleppo Temple was organized in 1882 and had some very important and wealthy members who wanted the hospital located in Boston.

Melha Temple in Springfield was organized in 1897 and didn't have as many influential members, but they did have several members with real vision.

Notification was received that on a certain date a committee from Chicago would arrive in Springfield to look over possible sites for a hospital before going on to Boston to make an inspection there.

The Springfield group immediately looked over several possible sites for a hospital and finally settled on a seven-acre site on Carew Street, then known as "Hungry Hill."

An option was taken on the property.

At this period of time, Springfield was fortunate in having two industries that were internationally known: The Hendee Motorcycle Company headed by Shriner George Hendee and the Rolls Royce Factory which was turning out these vehicles.

Hendee made arrangements to "borrow" a half-dozen Rolls Royce cars and arrangements were made to make reservations for the Chicago group to stay at the luxurious Colony Club on Maple Street.

When the day arrived to greet the visitors, a delegation of Melha Shriners met the train at the station and conducted the group to the six Rolls Royces.

For two days the visitors were wined and dined and shown the beauties of Western Massachusetts.

When the visit was over, the visitors were conducted to the railroad station in six Rolls Royces and put on the train for Boston.

It was reported later that when they arrived in Boston there was no one there to greet them.

Not long after, Springfield was selected as the site for the hospital.

Doors Always Open

Fifty years ago, the Springfield unit of the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children opened its doors to 12 needy children.

Since then, more than 15,000 children have been discharged from the hospital.

More than 19,000 operations have been performed, 60,000 casts applied, 17,000 braces applied, 141,000 x-rays taken and the out-patient clinic has had more than 164,000 visits.

The hospital has logged more than 1 million patient days, with each patient staying an average of 67 days.

The average cost per patient per day is $14, and the total cost averages about $940 for the full stay. Operating expenses of the hospital have totaled more than $14 million. The 60-bed hospital has a waiting list of 142 children.

HOSPITAL FRIEND

A retired Milton engineer who never saw the Shriners Hospital, but who developed an interest in crippled children, died in 1960 and left $150,000 to the hospital.

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MELHA
OUR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
— SALUTES —

One-Room School Concept Thriving

The one-room school concept is alive and serving a multitude of purposes at the Springfield Shriners Hospital.

Each school day, about 45 children, in wheelchairs, in hospital beds, with braces or crutches, are pushed or walk to the large brightly decorated room at the end of the hospital's long corridor.

There, the children find a school geared to their educational, social and emotional needs.

When children come to the hospital, they bring schoolwork and books with them.

The goal is for the children to keep up with their classmates at their home school, so that they aren't behind when they return.

The classroom is divided into two sections. Mrs. Patricia Sheran teaches kindergarten through grade five and Mrs. Marjorie G. Bray teaches grades six to 11.

The children range in age up to 16, the maximum limit for patients at the hospital. Of the 60 hospital patients, about 15 are pre-schoolers.

But since the average stay of each patient is about two months, the turnover is great.

Both teachers said they have to keep all projects and lessons of short duration because of the turnover.

The school is unstructured, by necessity.

First, the students are on all different grade levels and in the case of secondary students, are studying different subjects, Mrs. Bray said.

Second, the hospital comes before the school, so the children come and go as their physiotherapy treatments and other medical appointments dictate, she said.

Much of the school day is spent on academics, Mrs. Bray said, but there are also story times, sensitivity sessions for the secondary students, discussions of current events, opportunities for personal enrichment and lessons in art and music from Springfield School Department personnel.

The school is fully accredited as part of the Springfield Public Schools and follows the regular school schedule.

Both teachers, and aides Mrs. Josephine Devine and Mrs. Marlene Nashville, are assigned by the Springfield School System. In addition, there are several volunteer aides.

The school serves the basic function of making sure the child "doesn't become a school dropout," Mrs. Bray said.

Mrs. Patricia Sheran, who teaches grades kindergarten through five at the school in the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, goes through a lesson with one of her students.

But it also serves as an "escape from the hospital environment," she said. The teachers purposely try to keep the medical side of hospital life disassociated from the schoolroom.

Once a day, the secondary class gathers for a sensitivity session, designed to allow the children to express themselves verbally in front of others, she said.

Mrs. Bray said many of the children have never been to public schools and have had only private tutors, so this helps them adjust socially.

Also, children get a chance to contribute their ideas to the group and to mix their thoughts with those of the other children.

The school is also a place for morale building, she said.

Interaction with the other children undergoing similar and possibly painful and traumatic treatment is "the best thing for morale," she said.

Teaching at the hospital is a "challenge," she said.

She can't be expected to be an expert in every field and she said she tells the students that.

But with the help of the city library and the school department, all of the information a student may need is available, she said.

The hospital admits patients from foreign countries. These patients are taught English so they can deal with the hospital staff and some eventually learn the language, she said.

The physical disabilities of the patients don't affect the actual teaching that much, expect to make it more physically demanding on the teacher, she said.

Most of the students sit in chairs or wheelchairs around a large table. Those who lie flat on their backs in hospital beds use a mirror device attached to eye glasses which allows them to read a book propped up on their chests or on the side of the bed without having to move.

The students at the hospital are very sensitive and often confide in her, she said. But she said, "The kids still fool around. Just because they're handicapped, doesn't mean they're angels."

Most of the children like school, Mrs. Sheran said. Despite their physical problems, they are "pretty happy kids," she said.

Her volunteers include students from Springfield Technical Community College, Springfield College and several women who just want to help.

She said one woman's child was a patient at the hospital and the woman decided to volunteer as a way of repaying the hospital.

weinberg take sxi shriners tab school

The children at the school may miss some things that children in public school get to do, like participate in sports at recess, but they make up for it in other ways.

Celebrities, acts that are appearing at the Springfield Civic Center or area malls, the Melha Shrine Circus, and others make special visits to the hospital to entertain the children.

The school also has a newspaper which is printed every two months. It contains articles written by the children, as well as book reports, sports features and editorials.

Numbers Tell Shriners' Story

Some numbers can give a picture of the work done by the 22 Shriners Hospitals over the past 53 years.

Through 1974, more than 213,000 children have been discharged from Shriners Hospitals.

Surgeons have performed more than 266,000 operations.

Nearly 2 million x-rays have been taken, 700,000 casts have been applied, 184,000 braces applied, and 4.8 million physiotherapy treatments have been conducted.

Out-patient clinics have recorded nearly 2 million visits.

The average patient stays 69 days in the hospital. And the total number of patient days is more than 15 million.

There are currently 1,035 beds in the hospitals, with more than 2,000 children on waiting lists.

The average cost per patient per day is $15 or about $1,000 for total patient cost.

To pay for all this, the 900,000 Shriners have raised more than $230 million.

All services are provided free of charge.

KENNEDY GIFT

In 1949, Joseph P. Kennedy, former U.S. ambassador to Great Britain, donated $75,000 to the Springfield Shriners Hospital in memory of his son Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., who was killed in action in World War II.

Congratulations to
SHRINER S HOSPITAL
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from
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CONGRATULATIONS
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With Their Gifts, Children Laugh

The Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, is as American as apple pie.

Shiner Temples may have odd sounding names, and the members may wear funny hats and uniforms during parades, but the real work of the organization is the establishment and maintenance of 22 hospitals for crippled children.

The co-founders of the Mystic Shrine were Dr. Walter M. Fleming, a surgeon who lived in New York City, and actor Billy Florence, who was a well-known showman in the 1870s.

Fleming had the idea of establishing a new organization for Masons who had completed their Scottish Rite or York Rite work.

On a trip in Europe, Florence witnessed an Arabic musical comedy after which guests became members of a secret society.

When Florence returned, he and Fleming, armed with the makings of an appropriate ritual, conceived the name Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and launched the fun-loving society.

To attract attention and new members, Mystic Shriners were allowed to werear a red fez head-covering.

In 1872, in Masonic Hall, New York City, the first meeting of the fledgling group was conducted. The ritual had been drawn up, the first temple was named Mecca and Fleming was elected potentate.

As the number of temples grew throughout the country, the members of nearly all temples were involved in some form of charitable work.

In 1906, there were more than 100,000 members. The Mystic Shrine, with $88,000 in the treasury, sent $25,000 to aid victims of the San Francisco earthquake.

During the next few years, several Shriners realized that the organization could become far more than what Fleming intended, "a playground for Masons."

In 1919, Imperial Potentate-elect W. Freeland Kendrick launched the idea of the Shriners founding a hospital for crippled children.

The Imperial Council of 1920 approved the idea and the "world's greatest philanthropy" was begun.

It was decided that the hospital would be open to all children, regardless of race or creed, whose parents were unable to pay for the needed surgical, medical and hospital facilities.

In 1922, the first Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children was opened in Shreveport, La.

In the next three years, hospitals were opened in Honolulu, Ha.; Minneapolis, Minn.; San Francisco, Cal.; Portland, Ore.; St. Louis, Mo.; Spokane, Wash.; Salt Lake City, Utah.; Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

On February 21, 1925, the Springfield unit of the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children was opened.

Since then hospitals have been established in Winnepeg, Manitoba, Canada; Chicago, Ill.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Lexington, Ky.; Greenville, S.C.; Mexico City, Mexico; and Los Angeles, Cal.

The more than 900,000 Shriners raise more than $30 million annually to operate these hospitals.

Since the opening of the first Shriners hospital, more than 176,000 children have been cured or materially helped, free of charge.

Congratulations to
SHRINERS HOSPITAL
for
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on their
50th Anniversary
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BEST WISHES TO
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Orthotist John W. Laughran adjusts a back brace at the brace shop of the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children.

Orthotist Job Bracing

John W. Laughran is an orthotist at the Shriners Hospital.

That means he runs the orthotic department, otherwise known as the brace shop.

Along with three helpers, Laughran makes various types of braces for the 60 in-patients and more than 400 out-patients at the hospital.

He estimated that the shop makes 60 braces a month in addition to 100 repairs of existing braces.

If the hospital were to buy the braces elsewhere, they would cost an average of $130 each or $7,800 per month. The repairs would cost about $5,000 a month if they were done by an outside party.

Laughran said when a brace is to be made, he gets a prescription from the doctor. He then measures the patient to make the appropriate brace.

In the case of a body brace, Laughran makes a plaster cast of the body, then makes the brace out of thermoplastics.

In the case of bilateral leg braces, an outline of the patient's legs is drawn on paper and measured.

The braces are all made so that the stress is spread evenly, and a flat non-stress sole is added to the shoes , Laughran said.

The shop makes short leg braces, long leg braces, bilateral long leg braces with a thoracic attachment, combination lower and upper extremity braces, a complete line of plastic braces and corrective spinal braces, he said.

The braces are used to counter progressive muscular and postural diseases, birth defects, and as post operative devices.

The shop does not make artificial limbs, he said.

Laughran has been at Shriners Hospital for six years and has been in the business more than 30 years. He attends courses at New York University and attends orthopedic seminars.

The shop is open an average of 12 hours a day, six days a week, he said.
weinberg take one shriners tab dumas

$450,000 DONATION

In 1959, a retired draftsman, William F. Plumb, who lived alone in a furnished room in Belmont, and had neither a television nor radio in his room, died and left $450,000 to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Springfield.

Help Was There

Five-year-old Roland A. Dumas of Springfield came home from church one Sunday and for no apparent reason fell down on the floor in his house.

He couldn't get up again.

His parents took him to a doctor who was unable to diagnose his illness.

He was put in a crib in a closed off room in the house so as not to spread whatever he had. He didn't go to school. The only persons allowed to visit him were his mother and older brother.

He stayed in the crib for three years.

The year was 1925. Poliomyelitis was a great crippler and the Salk and Sabin vaccines had not yet been discovered.

Dumas' father was a grocer on Princeton Street and several of his customers were Shriners. They knew about Roland's problem and when the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children opened, he was one of the first patients admitted.

Dumas, now 58, has lived in Springfield all his life and for about 30 years was a disc jockeyd announcer on radio station WMAS.

He said he has vivid memories of his stay in the Shriners Hospital.

He was there for two months, underwent three operations and when he was discharged was able to walk with a cane.

If he hadn't admitted to the hospital, Dumas said he would never have been able to walk.

At the hospital, he remembers that "they treated me like a king."

Dumas said that after being discharged he walked with a limp but said he walked to school every day.

He attended out-patient clinics for the next few years and then when he was 17 was called back to the hospital because Dr. R. Nelson Hatt, chief surgeon, wanted to operate to strengthen his hip.

Dumas entered Cathedral High School that year and in 1942 joined WMAS.

Dumas suffered a heart attack two years ago and no longer works at the station.

He now lives at 221 Corcoran Blvd., Springfield with his wife. He has two married daughters and three grandchildren.

"I can't say enough about the hospital," he said.

Administrator

Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children Administrator - Mrs. Madeline Murphy, - R.N.

Parade At Drop Of a Fez

Continued From Page 15

At today's 50th anniversary celebration for the hospital an estimated 500 Melha Shriners will be participating in the parade.

The Melha Temple was begun in 1897 by Charles H. Miller and 12 other Shriners. After permission was granted to form the temple, representing the four counties in Western Massachusetts, the Imperial Council sent the Springfield group 25 Arabic words from which to pick a name.

The name Melha was chosen, which in a broad sense means salt.

Since then, the membership has grown to more than 3,700 persons, Atty. Maurice H. Baitler, potentate of Melha Temple, said.

There are currently 15 parade units, including Oriental band, Hadji, military band, drum corps, and Arab patrol.

There are also five Shrine clubs throughout Western Massachusetts so that members can attend monthly meetings without having to drive to Springfield, he said.

The Melha Temple in Springfield is at 133 Longhill St., the former home of Dwight W. Ellis.

Every week, Shriners from Springfield and the other 16 regional temples, conduct tours of the hospital on Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m.

Anniversary Parade Today

The 50th anniversary of the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Springfield will be celebrated today with a gala parade, beginning at 1.30 p.m.

More than 1,500 Shriners from throughout New England and New York State will march down Carew Street from the corner of St. James Avenue to the hospital at 516 Carew St.

Brief ceremonies will follow the parade. Then the public is invited to attend an open house at the hospital from 2 to 5 p.m.

There will feasting and dancing tonight at the Civic Center to wrap up the day's festivities.

Ex-Patient Happy Man

The first patient discharged from the Springfield Shriners Hospital fifty years ago was John Brinck.

Today, Brinck, who lives with his wife Jennie at 377 New Ludlow Rd., Fairview, is the first to credit the hospital for making it possible for him to lead a "normal life."

Fifty years ago, Brinck was a seven year-old boy with two clubfeet. His parents brought him to the new Springfield hospital from their home in Messina, N.Y., for an examination.

Brinck's application was sponsored by George W. Hendee, chairman of the board of governors of the hospital.

When the new hospital opened its doors on Feb. 21, 1925, Brinck was one of the first 12 patients admitted.

He was operated on successfully and on April 8, 1925, became the first patient discharged from the hospital. Since then more than 15,000 children have been discharged.

Five years later, he was admitted to the hospital for minor corrective surgery.

For the past 45 years, Brinck said his feet have been "totally perfect." He returned to the hospital only once for treatment, following a minor accident, he said.

Today, at age 57, Brinck said he "gets around like anybody else," and has no problems with his feet.

Brinck retired two years ago from his job at Westover Air Force Base where he did woodworking and carpentry.

He now works part-time at the same trade at the Highpoint Motor Inn in Chicopee.

About 20 years ago, with the help of a few freiends he built his own house, he said.

"I'm proud and happy for all they have done for me," he said. Without the services of the Shriners Hospital, "I wouldn't be a normal person," he said.

JOHN BRINCK

Congratulation to the Shriner s Hospital on their 50th Anniversary.

AMERICAN
EXTERMINATING CO. INC.
JAMES RUSSELL, PRESIDENT

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50th ANNIVERSARY
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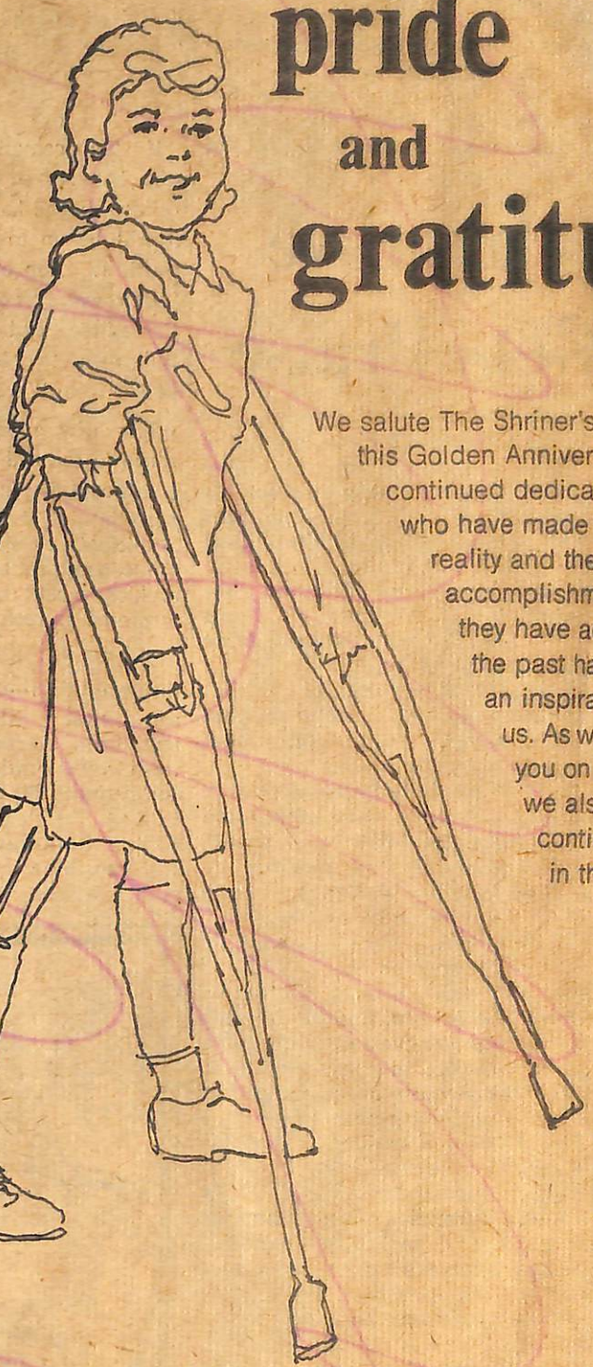

We salute The Shriner's Hospital on this Golden Anniversary. The continued dedication of those who have made this dream a reality and the magnificent accomplishments which they have achieved over the past half century are an inspiration to all of us. As we congratulate you on this occasion, we also wish you continued success in the future.

The Trustees, Officers and Staff
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"Shawmut First Bank" Salutes the Shriner's Hospital

We at Shawmut First Bank are proud to extend our congratulations to the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children on their 50th year of serving crippled children in our Shriner's Hospital.

Shawmut First Bank